

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01231 281126Z

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SUBJ: AMERICAN PROFESSOR PROGRAM (BEER, DAVID A. AND OTHERS)

REF: STATE 179608

1. PAO CONVOKED FRIDAY JULY 23 BY DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT
II, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION (GNONLONFOUN)
FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION REGARDING EXCHANGE GRANTS. IN
PRESENCE TWO OTHER MEMBERS DEPT. II, GNONLONFOUN EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN EXPLORING U.S. EXCHANGE PROGAM, CLAIMING HE HAD
FIRST BECOME AWARE WE HAD SUCH A PROGRAM ONLY THE PREVIOUS
WEEK WHEN PAO HAD OFFERED SERVICES DAVID BEER AS PROFESSOR
AM LITERATURE. GNONLONFOUN SAID HE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT PROFESSORS COULD BE AVAILABLE UNDER
AUSPICES FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FOR SUCH TECHNICAL SUBJECTS
AS MEDICINE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AS HE SAW GREAT
ATTRACTION IN EXPANDING SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR TECHNICAL
PERSONNEL, THUS DECREASING DEPENDENCE ON FRENCH "COOPERANTS."

2. PAO REPLIED THAT TECHNICAL SUBJECTS WERE GENERALLY HANDLED
BY USAID, WHO BETTER PLACED FIND PERSONNEL, AND WHO
HAD CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE IN THESE AREAS. PAO
SAID MISSION PREPARED ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FROM NATIONAL
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PAGE 02 COTONO 01231 281126Z

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN (UNB) FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1977-78, AS IT

TOO LATE FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR TO CONSIDER MORE THAN PROFESSORS OF AMLIT AND ECONOMICS, WITH OUTSIDE CHANCE FOR "MISSION-AIRE" (SHORT-TERM PROFESSOR) IN FIELD OF MANAGEMENT. PAO ALSO REITERATED BELIEF THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIND ECONOMICS PROFESSOR FOR THIS YEAR AND REPEATED EARLIER OBSERVATION THAT TOTAL EXCHANGE BUDGET EXTREMELY LIMITED.

3. ASKED ABOUT DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES FOR BEER IF HE ULTIMATELY ACCEPTED, GNTNLONFOUN REPLIED THAT "IN PRINCIPLE" THESE PRIVILEGES EXTENDED FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS TO ALL EXPERTS COMING TO BENIN UNDER GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS. HE URGED, HOWEVER, THAT USG CONSIDER IN FUTURE ENTERING INTO CULTURAL AGREEMENT, TREATY OR PROTOCOL, AS THESE QUESTIONS COULD ALL BE BROUGHT OUT AND ANSWERED FINALLY AT THAT TIME, AND SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD FOSTER AND MAKE EASIER FUTURE EXCHANGES. HE LEFT SUBJECT ONLY AFTER EXTRACTING PROMISE THAT EMBASSY WOULD BRING UP QUESTION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH DEPT.

4. COMMENT -- THIS SECOND TIME PAO HAS HEARD ABOUT GPRB'S DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNICIANS, LAST TIME BEING AT BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION WHEN RECTOR OF UNB USED ALMOST THE SAME WORDS. WHETHER DEPARTURE OF FRENCH COOPERANTS IS UNIVERSAL FEAR AMONG RESPONSIBLE GPRB CIVIL SERVANTS, OR REPRESENTS A "GO-AHEAD" FROM SOME QUARTER TO SEEK AMERICAN ASSISTANCE, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ON QUESTION OF CULTURAL PROTOCOL, ALTHOUGH WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY SUCH A DOCUMENT WE WOULD URGE THAT IT BE GIVEN SOME CONSIDERATION, PARTICULARLY IF, AS SUGGESTED IN THIS YEAR'S PARA, A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT IS TO BE MADE TO PRB. SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE IDEAL OCCASION FOR SIGNING LOW-LEVEL CULTURAL ACCORD, AND WOULD SUFFICE IN LIEU OF MORE COSTLY AID GRANT GPRB MIGHT EXPECT ON OCCASION OSUCH A VISIT. SUCH A SIGNING WOULD ALSO SERVE TO MAKE VISIBLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM THAT IS NOW CONSCIOUSLY IGNORED BY BENINESE MEDIA.

5. FURTHER TO BEER'S REQUEST FOR DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES, EMBASSY WILL NOT CONSIDER ASKING FOR SUCH PRIVILEGES FOR FULL TERM HIS STAY. LAWTON HAD NO DIFFICULTY BRINGING IN INITIAL EFFECTS SHIPMENT, WHICH IN ANY CASE AMOUNTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COTONO 01231 281126Z

LITTLE MORE THAN SEVERAL SUITCASES ANYWAY, AND LOW TAXES ON MANY ITEMS MAKES THINGS LIKE LIQUOR AND CIGARETTES ALMOST AS CHEAP IN TOWN AS IN EMBASSY COMMISSARY. POUCH IS AVAILABLE FOR PRESCRIPTION ITEMS AND OFFICIAL MAIL OF PROFESSIONAL NATURE TOO VALUABLE TO BE SENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL MAIL, AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS SMALL AND CLOSE ENOUGH THAT "PRIVATION" IS HARDLY TO BE ANTICIPATED. ON OTHER HAND THIS IS ONE OF LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS

OF WORLD AND BEER AND HIS FAMILY SHOULD NOT EXPECT
THAT THEY ARE GOING TO CAMELOT. LAWTONS CAN AND WILL GIVE
HIM MOST ACCURATE PICTURE OF WHAT TO EXPECT. HE WOULD BE
WELL ADVISED TO BASE HIS DECISION ON THEIR
JUDGEMENT OF THE PRIVATION TO BE ANTICIPATED HERE.
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